Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 6, line 25 with the following amended paragraph:

Another example of matching some information in the message with an address of the receiving MAC occurs when MACs 12, 14, and 16 send Request to Send/Clear to Send (RTS/CTS) message pairs between each other. RTS/CTS is used when a MAC (e.g., 12) needs to know that another MAC (e.g., 14) is listening before sending data. As shown in FIG. 3, MAC 12 sends a RTS message frame 202 to medium 3 to check if MAC 14 is listening before MAC 12 sends data to MAC 14. In this example, the RTS message frame 202 includes a data portion 204 and an error code 206 for error checking at the receiving station (e.g., MAC 14). In one example, the error code 206 is a CRC resulting from applying a 8-, 16- or 32-bit polynomial to the data portion 204. The data portion 204 includes a source address 210 of MAC 12**, but not a destination address 208**. MACs 14 and 16 receive the RTS message on medium 3. Both MAC 14 and 16 read the data portion 204 and the error code 206 of the message 202. In the example where error code 206 is a CRC, both MAC 14 and 16 apply the 8-, 16- or 32-bit polynomial to an augmented message 212 representing the combination of the received data portion 204 and address 214 of either MAC 14 or 16. Both MAC 14 and 16 check for errors using the augmented message 212. MAC 14 finds no error in the augmented message 212 so MAC 14 detects that the RTS message is intended for MAC 14. By making this successful match, MAC 14 not only knows that the RTS message 202 is intended for MAC 14 but also that the message was received without transmission errors. MAC 14 responds to the RTS by sending a CTS message to medium 3 with MAC 12 as its intended recipient without including address 210 of MAC 12 in the message body. The CTS message has an error code that is derived from the data portion of the CTS message in addition to the destination address 210 of MAC 12. Alternatively, the CTS message can use one or both of the source address (address of station generating the CTS) and destination address (address of station that is the intended recipient of the CTS) in the CRC computation. MACs 12 and 16 receive the CTS message on medium 3 and MAC 12 detects that the CTS message is intended for MAC 12 by augmenting the message with its address 210 and calculating that the augmented message is error free as described previously.

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, line 20 with the following amended paragraph:

Other applications of this messaging technique include packet acknowledgement so that a transmitting station knows when its packets have been received or not. As shown in FIG. 4, MAC 12 sends a message frame 302 containing an acknowledgement of a receipt of a packet. MAC 14 originally sent the packet to MAC 12 so the packet acknowledgement conveys a source address identification **310** for MAC 12. Upon receipt of this acknowledgement, MAC 14 can match the acknowledgement to a packet sent by MAC 14 to MAC 12. The acknowledgement message 302 is intended for MAC 14 but both MAC 14 and 16 receive the message 302 on medium 3. MAC 12 generates the message 302 by generating error code 306 as if the source address 310 (address of MAC 12) and the destination address 308 (address of MAC 14) were part of a block of data for the message 302 without transmitting the source address 310 and the destination address 308. Alternatively, the acknowledgement can also use only the destination address or only the source address in the CRC computation. The intended receiver knows the address of the station that is supposed to send the response, and thus the acknowledgment mechanism can use one or both of the destination address and source address. Upon receipt of the message, both MAC 14 and MAC 16 insert their addresses into an augmented message 312 as potential destination address 316. Both MAC 14 and MAC 16 also insert addresses into an augmented message 312 of stations where MAC 14 and 16 previously sent unacknowledged packets as potential source addresses 314. MAC 14 and 16 then check their augmented messages 312 against the received error code 306 in the message to see if there is a match. In this case, MAC 14 has a match for the destination address 316 and a source address 314 for the packet previously sent to MAC 12.